

ANGLO-SAXONS

KEY FACTS



Who were the Anglo-Saxons?

- The Anglo-Saxons came from parts of Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands.
- They started to arrive around 450AD after the Roman army left and Britain was undefended
- Different tribes settled in different parts of the country and established their own kingdoms
- By about 600, there were five main kingdoms in England: Northumbrian, Mercia, East Anglia, Wessex and Kent
- From 793 the Vikings started to invade. England was home to both Vikings and Anglo-Saxons from 793 to 1066
- The Anglo-Saxon era came to an end with the Battle of Hastings and the Norman Conquest of 1066

How do we know about the Anglo-Saxons?

Books:

- English monks started to write down history in the Anglo-Saxon era. Two of the books that tell us the most about this time are: The Anglo-Saxon Chronicles and The Ecclesiastical History of the English People.

Treasure:

- In 1939, a Saxon ship burial site was discovered in **Sutton Hoo** in East Anglia. It was full of treasure, weapons and archaeological artefacts
- In 2009, **The Staffordshire Hoard** was discovered in what would have been the kingdom of Mercia. It is the largest hoard of Anglo-Saxon gold and silver and jewels ever found and consists of around 5.1kg of gold, 1.4 kg of silver and 3,500 pieces jewellery.

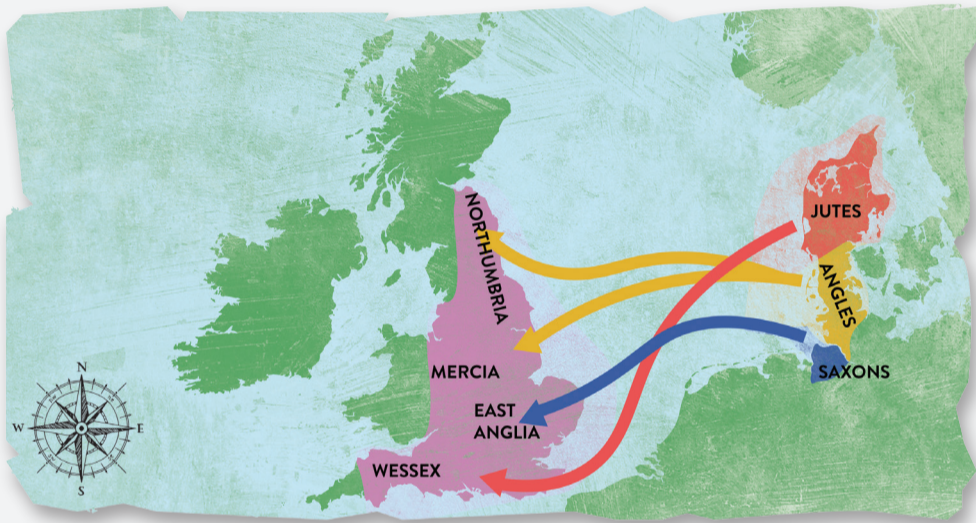
What did the Anglo Saxons do for us?

Religion:

- Most Britons were pagans at the start of the period
- St Augustine brought Christianity to Britain at the end of the 6th Century.

Parliament :

- While he was king, Alfred was advised by a council called the **Witan**. This was important because it marked the beginning of parliament in England.



TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS



KEY INDIVIDUALS



King Offa

King Offa was the Anglo-Saxon king of **Mercia** from 757-796.



King Alfred

King Alfred was the Anglo-Saxon king of **Wessex** from 871-899.

KEY VOCABULARY



- Invaders:** People who enter an area by force in order to take over and conquer.
- Settlers:** People who decide to live in a new area.
- Agriculture:** Farming: planting crops and/or looking after animals to make food.
- Monastery:** A building where a lot of monks live. First seen in Anglo-Saxon times with the introduction of Christianity.
- Peasant:** someone who works on a farm but does not own it.
- Conflict:** war or disagreement.
- Parliament:** a group of people who decide the laws of a place.
- Chronicle:** an account of events written in chronological order.